

561
In 3
1914

Real Charity versus Graft and Fraud

*Second Annual Report of Survey
of Indianapolis Charities*

February 1, 1914—May 1, 1914

*Compiled and Issued Under Direction of
Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce*

Real Charity versus Graft and Fraud

*Second Annual Report of Survey
of Indianapolis Charities*

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*Compiled and Issued Under Direction of
Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce*

No. _____

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

The Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

COMMITTEE ON RELIEF AND CHARITIES

HAS INVESTIGATED

MAY 1, 1915

WHICH SOLICITS DURING THE YEAR \$ _____

THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES IT TO BE WORTHY THE SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO DESIRE TO FURTHER ITS AIMS.

THIS ENDORSEMENT
COVERS
THE PERIOD EXTENDING
FROM _____

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON RELIEF AND CHARITIES

THE BEARER, WHOSE SIGNATURE APPEARS BELOW, IS AUTHORIZED
TO SOLICIT FUNDS FOR THIS INSTITUTION

TO _____

SIGNATURE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF INSTITUTION

(SEAL)

SIGNATURE OF SOLICITOR

(IF SOLICITOR CEASES TO BE EMPLOYED BY THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION, THIS CARD MUST
BE RETURNED TO THE INDIANAPOLIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

Fac-simile of the Endorsement Card (white) issued for period ending May 1, 1915

361

In 3

1914

From

THE COMMITTEE ON RELIEF AND CHARITIES
To

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INDIAN-
APOLIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE
PUBLIC GENERALLY:

Barnes 11-18-15

1914

It is with a feeling of keen satisfaction combined with pleasure that we present our second annual report containing a list of the organizations in Indianapolis soliciting funds for charity and relief work from the general public, which have received our approval and our disapproval. Acknowledgment is made of the many evidences of appreciation with which our work has met during the past year. We have attempted to cover the field to the best of our ability and we are content in knowing that our efforts along constructive lines have not been fruitless. Through the introduction of more systematic methods along with knowledge gained by experience we are enabled to give you a more comprehensive idea of the charity situation locally than we were one year ago. Our survey this year includes every charity and philanthropic organization in the city that solicits funds from the general public. Many facts we have obtained necessarily must be treated as confidential. It is needless to say that our task of surveying the charities has been a tremendous one with a voluminous amount of detail. We have followed practically the same plan as the one we used last year. A questionnaire was sent to each organization and this was followed up by a personal investigation. Weekly meetings have been held at which reports were submitted and questions affecting the general charity situation were considered. We bespeak your continued assistance and co-operation in our efforts to protect you from graft and fraud. That is the chief mission of the Committee on Relief and Charities. We also want to eliminate duplication of effort, waste of time and money,

Ask every solicitor to show the endorsement card issued by the Committee on Relief and Charities of the Chamber of Commerce. This is good insurance. Be sure that you are subscribing to endorsed charities. Refer the solicitors without a card to the Chamber of Commerce and refuse to give them a donation.

and loss of energy in relief and charity work in Indianapolis.

What is needed in Indianapolis in handling relief and charity work is more centralized and united effort. How to bring this about constitutes a problem not easily solved and one still more difficult to put into operation. We have given this phase of the problem considerable study and hope to be able soon to present something tangible. We are firm believers in governmental supervision of private charities and we are now considering the advisability of presenting a bill to the next General Assembly to bring this about in Indiana. This unquestionably would tend to elevate all private charities and increase their efficiency. What we believe the charity giver wants to see is a reduction to the minimum in the cost of administering relief. There is always danger under the present system in Indianapolis of too small an amount of charity donations reaching the place where they were intended to go. The motives of a large percentage of charity institutions are unquestionably good, but their experience in dealing with their problems is so limited that in many cases their work cannot be carried on successfully. The methods followed by us have attracted the attention of many cities and we have answered many inquiries concerning our endorsement system. It is by no means perfect, but it has enough merit to attract the attention and comment of many of the most noted charity experts in the country. We regard our work as a form of insurance and are constantly endeavoring to improve our methods and likewise increase the standard of qualifications by which we judge organizations. In a few cases we have found that the amount paid solicitors was too great, but in our opinion, the greatest saving can be made in the reduction of what we might term general administration expense. We are working in the direction of one centralized organization in Indianapolis.

Our policy is to treat all organizations fairly and impartially. We demand and receive the same information from the long established institution as from the organization just beginning operations.

Help us put fraudulent solicitors out of business by refusing to give until you have seen the endorsement card issued by the Committee on Relief and Charities.

Our endorsement covers local permanent organizations *only*. We will make an investigation, when requested, of outside organizations, but in no case will we grant them a card of endorsement. Donations to any organization should be made by *check only*, payable to the order of the organization. All endorsements end May 1, 1915. Requirements demanded of organizations seeking endorsement for the past year have been as follows:

1. The organization should be incorporated. It must have responsible and satisfactory local management actively engaged in the work of the organization.
2. The organization must be doing a work commensurate with the amount of money expended.
3. The organization should co-operate with other charitable agencies in promoting efficiency and economy of administration in the charities of the city as a whole and in preventing duplication of effort.
4. The organization should fill a need not already filled by an existing organization and not capable of thus being filled. Those who desire to inaugurate new philanthropic organizations, or who desire to extend the work of an existing organization, should give the fullest opportunity for the discussion of the proposed plans by the Relief and Charities Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.
5. The funds of each organization must be raised in an approved manner. The committee will refuse endorsement when an excessive percentage is paid to collectors or when the expenses of an entertainment or the manner of raising funds is disproportionate to the receipts.
6. The accounts of the organization shall be regularly audited by an accountant approved by our committee, and a copy of the same shall be filed with our committee.
7. Cards shall be subject to recall at any time by a vote of the committee.

Make your donations only to those organizations that are endorsed by the Committee on Relief and Charities.

8. The operations of the organization and its accounts shall be open always to the investigation of the committee.

Society will always owe a debt to a class of unfortunates who through force of circumstances and by their own inclinations are not able to help themselves. The practice of giving to charity and relief work is constantly increasing. Simultaneously there has developed an element in our citizenship which believes that the world owes it a living. This is one of the most dangerous forces in our community life today. To curb this force is one of our most important functions. The drain upon organized government has increased by bounds. Note carefully the following excerpt from a letter received from the deputy auditor of Marion County (Mr. Roy Sahm):

"I find of the amount spent by this county for general purposes in 1913, exclusive of road repairs and bond interest, etc., approximately 23% was spent for charitable purposes. The authority upon which the county donated to the support of certain charitable organizations is rather vague. In fact, the action of our County Council in fixing appropriations or of our County Commissioners in making allowances for such purposes is not based upon direct statutory authority, but rather upon the general statutes that permit these bodies to exercise their discretionary powers, for instance, in "indispensable public necessity" cases. However, there are many good reasons for such action from an equitable standpoint, chief among which are the facts that our council always satisfies itself by investigation that the causes to be donated to are worthy causes and that in their operations they are really aids to the county in that they care for unfortunates that otherwise would be on the hands of the township or county. I am hardly able to inform you on the question as whether the work of any charitable organization overlaps or duplicates that of any other such organization as the transaction of the business of this office would not develop these facts, if such were the case."

The following compilation showing donations by Marion County to charitable institutions will undoubtedly prove of interest to you:

Insist on the Endorsement Card.

DONATIONS BY MARION COUNTY TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

	1912	1913
Home for Friendless Women...	\$1500.00	\$1500.00
Rescue Mission	600.00	600.00
Door of Hope	600.00	600.00
Flower Mission	1000.00	1000.00
Home of Good Shepherd.....	300.00	300.00
Sisters of Charity	300.00	300.00
Alpha Home	300.00	300.00
Flanner Guild	500.00	500.00
Industrial Home for the Blind..	300.00	300.00
Friendly Inn	600.00	600.00
Indianapolis Humane Society ..	1500.00	1500.00
Little Sisters of the Poor.....		300.00
Mothers Aid Society		300.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$7500.00	\$8100.00

SUPPORT OF ORPHANS

Indianapolis Orphan's Asylum		
German Protestant Orphan's Home		
Indianapolis Asylum for Friendless Colored Children		
.....	18622.97	18574.25

STATE BENEVOLENT AND PENAL INSTITUTIONS	20436.25	27710.48
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POOR RELIEF

Center Township	7767.71	6367.92
Franklin Township	439.97	423.53
Perry Township	276.74	348.87
Pike Township	134.00	82.00
Washington Township	149.75	78.90
Wayne Township	523.67	408.70
Warren Township	135.00	141.90
Lawrence Township	294.65	225.65
Decatur Township	280.45	353.36
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10001.94	8430.83

ASYLUM FOR THE POOR OR THE COUNTY INFIRMARY

240 acre farm West of the Speedway. Inmates	211	200
Statement of Expenses		
New Laundry Building	3610.00	
Machinery and equipment	4782.00	
Repairs on barn	3498.00	
General repairs	2196.40	2391.40
Salary of Employees	7925.85	8350.10
Supplies	14316.68	13918.01
Insurance Premiums		127.50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36328.93	24787.01

Refuse to give to all solicitors who do not carry an endorsement card.

ASYLUM FOR INCURABLE PAUPER INSANE

175 acre farm, 12 miles east of Indianapolis.

Number of Patients		
	1912	1913
Male	115	132
Female	78	101
Number Admitted During the Years 1912-13		
Male	22	41
Female	18	37
Number of Deaths		
Male	25	23
Female	13	13
Number Discharged		
Male	4	22
Female	2	22
Number of employees	15	24
Repairs	\$1935.50	\$2256.26
New Sewer & Disposal Plant..	1944.00	
Supplies	14344.61	15735.06
Salary of Employees	8875.31	9206.39
Insurance Premiums		70.00
Total.....	27099.40	27267.71

GUARDIANS HOME

Property in Irvington and owned by the county.		
Salary of Employees	3390.00	3710.40
Repairs	1635.54	470.98
Insurance Premiums	285.00	
New Boiler Stack & Smoke Consumer	1567.00	
Supplies	1629.00	1673.62
Support of Children	7463.50	5240.40
Total.....	15970.04	11095.40

Grand total expended by the County for charities in 1912 was \$135,959.53, or a little over 1/5 of the total expenditure. The total expenditure was \$656,757.18. The amount spent for charity in 1913 was about twenty-three per cent.

The list of organizations in Indianapolis approved by the Board of State Charities in 1913 is as follows:

College Settlement Association, 1806 Columbia Ave. Boarding House for Infants.

Marion County Juvenile Detention Home, 28 W. North St. Boarding Home for Children.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd, 111 W. Raymond St. Boarding Home for Children.

Sisters of Charity State Hospital, 1502 N. Missouri St. Maternity Hospital.

Protect yourself against fraud by asking to see the endorsement card.

Mrs. Minnie Jones, 1732 W. Washington St.
Boarding House for Infants.

The Florence Crittenton Home, 1260 Chicago
St. Maternity Hospital and Placing Agency.

The Indianapolis Home for Friendless Colored
Children, 319 W. Twenty-first St. Board-
ing Home for Children.

Lincoln Hospital Association, 1101 N. Senate
Ave. Maternity Hospital.

The Evangelical Lutherische Waisengesell,
3310 E. Washington St. Boarding Home for
Children.

Annie Lee Sanders, 2523 Indianapolis Ave.
Boarding House for Infants.

Indianapolis Day Nursery Association, 530 W.
Vermont St. Boarding House for Infants.

Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum, 4107 E. Wash-
ington St. Boarding Home for Children.

German General Protestant Orphans' Associa-
tion. 1404 S. State Ave., Boarding Home
for Children.

St. Joseph Training School for Girls, 717 S.
Alabama St., Boarding Home for Children.

One of the most important pieces of work done by us during the year was to eliminate "tag days" and call a halt upon the practice of begging upon the streets. Every organization agreed with us that "tag days" were bad and all agreed to quit that had ever attempted to stage them. A letter outlining the opinion of the committee was sent to each organization and this had the same effect as the passage of an ordinance covering the subject has had in several cities. This constructive feature of our work will be continued and will be broadened as we become more familiar with our problems. To obtain ideas from recognized experts we made an extensive investigation in April. The following letter received at that time from the national director of The American National Red Cross, Mr. Ernest P. Bicknell, contains so much that is good that we are only too glad to make it a part of this report:

Help bring about efficiency in charity work in Indianapolis by asking solicitors for their endorsement card.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
Union Trust Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

April 11, 1914.

Mr. L. H. Lewis, General Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:—

Several days ago I received your communication in which you asked an expression of opinion from me concerning the best methods of endorsing charities by such organizations as your own.

I have long believed that strong organizations of business and professional men could render an important public service by giving careful study and supervision to voluntary philanthropic organizations. This method of supervision and endorsement, however, in my opinion is neither the ultimate nor the ideal end to be sought. I am a firm believer in governmental supervision of privately managed charities. Not alone should the methods of a charitable society be supervised; its reason for existence should be passed upon and approved by some official authority. The abuses which come into the work of private charities are not wholly the fundamental result of dishonest methods or negligence. The chief difficulty lies with people of good intentions who organize charities which are not needed, or if they are needed the methods of organization, control and accounting are imperfect, or the field of work to be occupied is not sufficiently defined or circumscribed. When a certain charitable organization is performing a useful work in a community, its field should not be invaded by another society, no matter how lofty the purposes of the second society may be.

I recognize the obstacles in the way of the carrying out of the idea of governmental supervision, and therefore have strongly supported as a preliminary and educational step the movement toward supervision by business organizations.

The function of such a committee as you have appointed is two-fold. That function which is usually first considered and most emphasized relates to the prevention and suppression of dishonesty or inefficient methods. The second function, which is of no less importance, has to do with con-

structive measures for working out the highest possible efficiency of the charitable forces of the community, not only with a view to improving the work of each agency, but with a view to the proper relations which should exist among all the agencies. The municipal charity problem is all one problem in the large view, and every separate agency with its own special function should be fitted into the complete scheme of things in such a way that it would be required first to perform its own work in the best possible manner, and second that it be required to limit its own work to its own particular field, properly adjusted to the fields of other agencies. The complete working out of this idea would mean that your committee would participate actively in movements to dissolve some agencies, consolidate others, bring about internal readjustments of some, and to assist in the organization of new agencies where no existing agency is prepared to properly meet the actual need. By laying strong emphasis on this second and larger function of your committee, you will almost incidentally perform the first function, which is repressive rather than constructive.

I have examined the blank form of application for endorsement which you have inclosed, and it impresses me very favorably. I believe however, it would be well to place a conspicuous paragraph upon the blank, stating that the committee reserves the right to take whatever step it may find necessary at any time to verify the statements made by any agency which applies for endorsement.

Having in mind the large aspect of the work of your committee, I would unhesitatingly advise the employment of an agent whose whole time could be given to the duties of investigation, interviewing applicants for endorsement, carrying on necessary correspondence, etc., under the direction of the committee.

The advantages also of engaging a professional auditor's assistance are important. His work should lie not alone in auditing the accounts of societies which apply for endorsement, but of even greater importance, his value should lie in helping charitable societies to prepare proper methods of accounting adapted to their especial needs. It has been my experience that many organizations keep

meager and unsatisfactory accounts, not through carelessness or indifference, but purely through ignorance of bookkeeping and purely through a lack of appreciation of the importance of keeping close and accurate accounts. The personal touch between the committee and the charitable societies need not be prevented by the employment of a secretary who would attend to those details of the work which are most likely to be neglected by a committee composed of busy men, no matter how great their interests. The committee would retain complete control and could give as much personal attention to the work as is found practicable.

It was my privilege to participate in the study of this subject carried on by the Chicago Association of Commerce prior to the creation of a committee for endorsement of charities for that city. Doubtless your committee is familiar with the plan of operation of the Chicago committee. I have believed that the plan of the Chicago committee is excellent, and the results of its work have seemed to me to strongly justify the wisdom of its methods.

In closing, I should like to again emphasize my belief that your organization has before it an opportunity for vastly increasing the efficiency of the organized philanthropic forces of Indianapolis, through the adoption of a broad constructive policy in its relations with those agencies and with the general public.

Very truly yours,
(signed) Ernest P. Bicknell,
National Director.

We have on several occasions called the attention of the city police department and the Marion County Grand Jury to unworthy and fraudulent solicitors. Only recently one organization was put out of business upon information furnished by us. If you will only require every solicitor to show an endorsement card from our committee we believe that charity grafting will soon be eliminated in Indianapolis, as we propose to keep raising the standards for organizations already in existence until they have reached a stage of near perfection. We know that our work must be continued and that we must have your aid if our efforts bring the greatest amount of results.

Insist on the Endorsement Card.

ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED

—A—

May 8, 1914—Alpha Home Association of Indianapolis, 1840 N. Senate Ave.

—B—

April 10, 1914—Boys' Club Association of Indianapolis, Indiana, 449 S. Meridian St.

—C—

May 8, 1914—Catholic Women's Association, 927 North Pennsylvania Street.

May 1, 1914—Charity Organization Society, 80 Baldwin Block.

April 3, 1914—Children's Aid Association, 88 Baldwin Block.

May 8, 1914—Citizen's Humane Society, 502 K. of P. Building.

May 22, 1914—College Settlement Association of Indianapolis, 1806 Columbia Avenue.

May 1, 1914—Committee on Vacant Lot Cultivation and Home Decoration, 84 Baldwin Block.

May 8, 1914—Christ Child Society, 731 South Alabama Street.

—D—

April 17, 1914—Deutsches Altenheim of Indianapolis, 2003 North Capitol Avenue.

May 1, 1914—Dime Savings and Loan Association, 85 Baldwin Block.

—F—

May 1, 1914—Fairview Settlement, 84 Baldwin Block.

June 5, 1914—Faith Home, 1513 Southeastern Avenue.

May 22, 1914—Flanner Guild, 847 Colton Avenue.

May 5, 1914—Florence Crittenton Home, 1260 Chicago Street.

—G—

April 3, 1914—German Ladies' Aid Society, German House.

May 22, 1914—Girls' Industrial School of Indianapolis, 2027 Talbott Avenue.

May 1, 1914—The Good Samaritan Mission, 240 South Noble Street.

—H—

April 29, 1914—Harley Gibbs Settlement, 1001 West Washington Street.

April 17, 1914—Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf of Indiana, 4423 Guilford Ave.

—I—

May 15, 1914—Immigrants' Aid Association, 617 West Pearl Street.

April 17, 1914—Indiana Industrial Home for Blind Men, 1180 West Twenty-eighth St.

May 1, 1914—Indianapolis Benevolent Society, 84 Baldwin Block.

May 8, 1914—Indianapolis Day Nursery Association, 530 West Vermont Street.

April 17, 1914—Indianapolis Free Kindergarten and Children's Aid Society, Twenty-third and Alabama Streets.

April 3, 1914—Indianapolis Flower Mission, 1312 North Meridian Street.

April 3, 1914—Indianapolis Asylum for Friendless Colored Children, 317 West Twenty-first street.

May 1, 1914—Indianapolis Home for Aged Women, 1731 North Capitol Avenue.

May 8, 1914—Indianapolis Humane Society, Police Headquarters.

May 22, 1914—Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum, 4107 East Washington Street.

—J—

April 24, 1914—Jewish Federation of Indianapolis, 923½ South Meridian Street.

—K—

May 15, 1914—Knickerbacker Home, Sixteenth Street and Central Avenue.

—L—

June 19, 1914—Lincoln Hospital (colored), 1101 North Senate Avenue.

May 5, 1914—Little Sisters of the Poor, 520 East Vermont Street.

Report all solicitors who do not have an endorsement card to the Chamber of Commerce.

—M—

April 3, 1914—Mother's Aid Society of Indianapolis, 84 Baldwin Block.

May 22, 1914—Mutual Service Association, 610 West Forty-third Street.

—N—

April 17, 1914—Newsboys and Messengers Protective Association of Indianapolis, State Life Building.

April 17, 1914—News' Fresh Air and Old Folks' Fund, Indianapolis News Building.

—P—

May 22, 1914—Pentecost Bands of the World, 223 North New Jersey Street.

April 31, 1914—Public Health Nursing Association, 1915 North Pennsylvania St.

—S—

June 12, 1914—Salvation Army, 24 South Capitol Avenue.

April 17, 1914—Santa Claus Club, 84 Baldwin Block.

April 3, 1914—St. Margaret's Hospital Guild, St. Paul's Parish House.

June 19, 1914—State Sisters of Charity Hospital (colored), 1502 North Missouri Street.

May 1, 1914—Summer Mission for Sick Children, 84 Baldwin Block.

—V—

June 12, 1914—Volunteers of America, 323-327 North Senate Avenue.

—W—

April 17, 1914—Wheeler Rescue Mission, 443 East South Street.

April 24, 1914—Woman's Improvement Club (Colored), 1328 North Capitol Avenue.

June 5, 1914—Woman's Club (Colored), 845 Chicago Street.

—Y—

May 8, 1914—Young Men's Christian Association, Illinois and New York Streets.

May 8, 1914—Young Men's Christian Association, (Colored), 450 North Senate Ave.

May 15, 1914—Young Women's Christian Association, 329 North Pennsylvania Street.

ORGANIZATIONS NOT APPROVED

April 10, 1914—Emory Cain Industrial School, 2830 East Twenty-fifth Street.

June 12, 1914—St. Thomas Industrial School, 1419 Roosevelt Avenue.

April 24, 1914—United Christian Church of Beulah, 1228 Roosevelt Avenue.

June 26, 1914—Little Mothers' Training School, 815 North Meridian St.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVESTIGATED

The Beulah Mission at 929 West Washington Street has passed out of existence. The Girls' Co-operative Home, which at one time was located at 907 North Capitol Avenue, is practically out of existence. Bad reports were heard by us about this institution. The Indiana Children's Home Finding Society is not in operation. It formerly had headquarters in the Baldwin Block. One of the latest organizations which did not measure up to our standards to go out of existence is the Indiana and Illinois Relief and Protective Association with headquarters in the State Life Building. The committee investigated the Indianapolis Department for School Attendance but decided the institution did not come within its province. The Park View Normal and Industrial Institute, colored, to be located six miles west of Indianapolis, also was investigated, but because of the fact that it was in process of formation the committee decided to take no action. The prospects for the success of the institution are not overly bright. Chiefly because of their religious affiliations the committee decided to take no action with respect to the W. C. T. U. and the Social Center for Haughville, which took over the McCullough Club Settlement. Numerous other organizations have been investigated by us but the character and scope of their work did not seem sufficient to mention them in this report. A special committee has been appointed to confer with the committee appointed by the mayor to handle the fund contributed by the moving picture shows which are operated on Sunday. This committee succeeds the Citizens' Charity Association at 420 Saks Building.

Respectfully submitted,

THE RELIEF AND CHARITIES
COMMITTEE.

June 26, 1914.



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